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expedition reached the mouth of the river, but much of the equipment and many supplies were lost. Orton, with a few companions, made the 600-mile journey back to La Paz through the forest and jungle amid incredible hardships. He died on crossing Lake Titicaca.

#### VACCINATION FOR SMALLPOX IN ENGLAND

THE London *Times* reports that at Nottingham, an epidemic of considerable proportions is now established; there have been 46 cases, 36 being unvaccinated, since the beginning of February. Last year a somewhat serious outbreak took place in Glasgow.

It is said that many towns in the country are badly protected at present for the doctrines of the opponents of vaccination have been widely spread. Of some areas it would be fair to say that they are destitute of protection. The population has simply refused vaccination *en masse*. An illustration—which is by no means exceptional—is Coventry, where the medical officer of health has issued the following figures:

Year	Births	Vaccinated, Percentage
1916	2,996	22.9
1917	2,738	13.0
1918	2,857	10.7
1919	2,429	8.7
1920	3,372	9.6

It was deliberate, as the following list makes quite clear:

Year	Declarations made of conscientious objections
1916	1,946
1917	1,830
1918	1,763
1919	1,250
1920	2,303

The medical officer points out that "this community is becoming largely an unvaccinated one."

What this may mean can be guessed from a series of figures published by the City of Liverpool in which the ravages of smallpox during the past 51 years are set down. The following are extracts:

Year	Deaths	Year	Deaths
1870	174	1883	26
1871	1,919	1884	106
1872	50	1885	46
1873	10	1886	29
1874	30	1887	1
1875	29	1888	1
1876	386	1889	1
1877	299	1890	None
1878	3	1891	2
1879	None	1892	13
1880	2	1893	9
1881	34	1894	20
1882	6	1895	12

The figures have remained very low since then except for the sharp epidemic of 1903 when there were 141 deaths. In 1918 there were only seven cases in England and Wales. But the sharp drop in vaccination of the past two years may be followed by a severe penalty.

#### THE WORK OF THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY AT THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

S. S. CLOUGH, H. M. astronomer at the Cape of Good Hope, has recently issued a report in which he gives an account of the distribution of the normal work of the observatory.

Dr. Halm exercises general supervision in all departments and takes part in heliometer observations and observations of an extra-routine character requiring special attention. He acts in full charge of the observatory during the absence of H. M. astronomer. Dr. Lunt is in charge of the Victoria telescope and its instrumental accessories, and of all photographic work in connection therewith.

Mr. Cox is in charge of the new meridian circle and of the time signal service, and supervises the reductions of all meridian observations. Mr. Woodgate is in charge of the astrographic telescope, photo-heliograph and seismograph, and of all photographic work connected therewith, and supervises the department of miscellaneous computations.

In addition to the above, a staff of fourteen computers and assistants is employed.

There are also attached to the observatory an instrument maker, an electric fitter, a stoker, a carpenter, and three Kroomen, who